

EIGHT DREADFUL

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EXAMPLES pamph

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of Notorious Sins by them com-
mitted.

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Eight dreadful Examples, of Gods immediat Judgement on wicked Persons, for several sorts of Notorious Sins by them committed.

C H A P. I.

A dreadful Example of six persons, who drinking for a Wager &c.

Six persons of no mean Note, whose names for their relations sake, I here omit, making a match, and laying a considerable Sum on it, which of them could hold out best in excess of Drinking, they agreed on St. James's day, last July, to go to a Punch house at *Plimouth*, the sooner, as they supposed, with that intoxicating Liquor, to end the controversy, and to drink Bowl after Bowl very lavishly, till the Goodman of the house fearing they would destroy their health, making an excuse he had no Brandie, upon which they fell horribly in Swearing, and commanded him to get some, but he refus'd it and left them, upon which four of them with a candle went to search the Closet in the Room, where they found a quarter Cask not opened, immediatly they pulled out the Plug or Bung to see what Liquor it contain'd which prov'd strong Spirits, the sudden steam of which sucked in the Flame of the Candle, which set it on Fire. which pouring out flame like an Engine for a Minute, the Cask burst with so great a blow, that the House being alarmed, the Master and others

run to see what the matter was, where they found the Room floated like a Sea of Blue Flame, and the four men horribly roaring, as being miserably burned, Hands, face and Body, lamentably crying out for help, when being brought off with much ado, and by great industrie, the Fire extinguished, they found their two companions fallen under the Table, as Dead with the Excess of Liquor they had Drunk, which miserable Spectacle raised a great consternation in the House; but with much ado they got them to Life again: upon which they told strang stories, saying, they supposed they had been in Hell, and in a Lake of Fire, where ugly Devils were quaffing Bowls of flaming Sulphur, and forcing the Damned Souls to pledge them deriding and upbraiding them. for their folly of Drunkenness had brought them to that endless place of Torment, and what they had so loved on Earth, should be their Everlasting Punishment. In this Miserable condition, they were carried Home, and put to Bed when coming to themselves they grew exceeding Penitent, when sending for Ministers to pray for them and warning all persons to take example by the fearful Judgement that beset them, and live soberly, and temperately, to shun the Threatned Vengeance of God upon them. Those that were Burned, their Hair, Nails and a great part of their Skin is come off, and all of them being fallen into violent Feavours are in danger of Death.

C H A P II.

How Susanna Brighton, for rash Vows and Wishes to excuse her self was burnt to Death.

Susanna Brighton of Brampsbat, a Woman of a debauched and wicked conversation, being frequently given to Drinking, and Swearing, wishing on every extravagant occasion that God would burn her alive if the things were not true she declared, though known for the most part, to be very false, and one Day having been at Dinner with others, at Mr. Pitson her Land,

Land-lords, viz. on *Whitson holy-days* last; and well Feasted, a Temptation fell upon her to Steal three Silver Spoons; which being missed, and she suspected, she being of the worst Fame among the Company, with horrid Imprecations she wished Fire would fall on her, and Consume her to Ashes if she was any way guilty of this Matter, when immediately a great Flash of Lightning glancing in at the Window, fired her Cloaths, setting them in a Blaze, and thereupon falling Dead, upon further search her Body was crushed, and as black as Coal, being burnt to a Cinder; So that upon handling, some parts of her fell into ashes; which Terrible Judgement it is hoped, will be a sufficient warning to all Swearers and rash withers, for the future how they dare provoke God in such audacious manner.

C H A P. III.

Now a prophane mocker of the Ministers of God's Word, and an excessive Drinker, miserably dyed, &c.

A Gentleman living at Rotherly, being given to excessive intemperance in Drinking, and what he could not swallow would lavishly throw away, refusing to give it to the Poor, and often being disguised in Drink, he would make it a frolick to go hear Sermons, making Sport with the Ministers words, and contradicting him, scoffing at the Scripture, making a Banter on what he heard, amongst his Jewd Companions, particularly of one passage where the Minister preached from the words of our blessed Saviour, viz. *If a man have but faith as a grain of mustard seed, he shall say to this Mountain be removed and cast into the Sea, and it shall be done.* But in the midst of this prophane Scoffing, the Judgement of God overtook him, for being suddenly seiz'd with a burning Discale; his Throat was so ulcerated that he could not swallow any thing; but like Dives was Tormented with an Internal Flame, which made him cry out, *O Friend Thomas! I wish now I had the*
Blessing

bleſſing to ſwallow but one of theſe many Glaſſes of Drink, I have ſo lavishly thrown away, to quench this Flame that burns up my Bowels, O happy ſhould I be! And ſoon after, drawing near to his end, by reaſon of his Conſuming heat, he laboured to be Penitent, wiſhing now he had Faith never ſo little, even as a Grain of muſtard ſeed, how comfortable it would be to him, but oh! he found his Conſcience hardened and unable to repent as he ought, ſo leaving an admonition to all intemperat and prophane Scoffers; with horrible Cries and Groans he gave up the Ghoſt.

C H A P. IV.

How a Cruel Tax gatherer taking away a poor womans Cows wrongfully, his own died; and for blaſpheming God, he was turned into a Dog.

L Amenable is the Relation of one *Albertus Perſcius*, a Nobleman in *Muſcovy* chief Tax-gatherer under the Great Czar of *Muſcovy*. This man, though he was vaſtly Rich, yet by Nature he was Cruel and Covetous; extorting the Taxes with Rigour, Imprifoning ſome and taking away the Goods and Cattle of many, tho' never ſo poor; Among others, he exerciſed his Cruelty on one *Elizebeth Soloski*, a poor Widow, who had but two Cows to ſuſſiſt herſelf, and her ten Children, and though her Husband in his Liſetime had paid the Tax demanded, and ſhe ſhewed him the Receipt, but it not being entered in his Book he looked on it as a Counterfeit, Horibly Swearing, if the Money was not immediatly paid, he would Seize on all ſhe had, and if that proved not ſufficient, we would ſell her and her Children into Slavery to the cruel *Tartars* to make it up. Upon this ſhe fell on her Knees with Cries and abundance of Tears, but he turned a deaf Ear, and immediatly cauſed her Cattle to be driven into his Grounds. When the ſame night her Husbands Ghoſt appeared to him ſaying, O thou cruel wicked wretch! Repent ſpeedily, for the fearful Judgment of God hangs over thy head, for oppreſſing the Wi-
dow.

How and the Fatherless wrongfully: I paid the Money which thou hast now ruined my Family, and so vanished. This a little startled him, but the next morning business put it out of his mind, till in the evening coming home, he found it too true, for all his Cattle which were very numerous, were dead in the Fields, except the poor woman's two Cows; upon which, cursing and blaspheming, he fetched his harquibuss loaden with Bullets; and in a desperate Rage, shot it up towards Heaven, Cursing and blaspheming God; and adding, *Thou God, if thou wouldst not let me eat my Cattle, eat them thy self.* upon which expression some drops of Blood fell upon him, and immediately he became distracted, being by the Almighty Power, at this instant turned into the shape of a black Dog, when running immediately to the dead Cattle with prodigious howling he fell to devour them, which so affrighted his Wife, that she sent home the poor Widows Cows, and the Money for their Milk during the time they had been unjustly detained.

C H A P. V.

A wicked Butcher, despising the Ministers good admonition, and swearing he would be Drunk, was choked.

A Butcher near Exeter, being a very debauched drunken Fellow, enticing others to follow his example, hearing on a Sunday a Sermon against Drunkenness and Intemperance, supposed the Parson preached it on purpose to reprove him, whereupon in an angry mood, he hasted out of the Church to an Ale house, calling for Drink and swearing he would be Drunk in spite of the Parsons Teeth, drolling on his Sermon, and calling Drunkenness the noble Science of good fellowship: but better he had been more reserved, for the first draught he took, God's Judgement fell on him; for the Drink rushing violently up again and forcibly entering the Wind Pipe strangled him, so that in a violent fit of Coughing, he fell down and died. *A sad Example to all Drunken profligate Wretches.*

Now a Sabbath breaking Miller, his Miln and House were burned by Gods Judgement and himself killed.

A Miller being a prophane Wretch and a great Sabbath breaker, contemning all Religion, scoffed at the distinction of days, saying, *It was as lawful to work on the Sabbath as an other day*: so setting his Miln on going on Sabbath, the stone violently beating fired it, which burnt not only his Miln but his house adjoining, and as himself laboured to quench it, he was killed by the fall of a piece of Timber:

Now a Lady in promise of Marriage was carried away by the Devil.

A Lady of a considerable Fortune, near *Stear* being Courted by a Gentleman's younger Brother, of no small Estate, and in all things agreeing to be his Wife, yet he suspecting because he was to go a Journey before the Nuptials could be consummated, some richer than himself, in his absence might change her mind, desired a Solemn assurance of her, which she made, with many vows and asseverations: in the Close, wishing, that if ever she Married any but himself, the Devil might fetch her away on her Wedding day but in this she proved false, and Married one with an Estate, who kept a Coach, but the Wedding dinner ended, two strange men on Horseback came to the Gate, and desired admittance, which being granted, one of them desired to take a Dance with the Bride, then taking her by the hand, he drew her from all the Company, opposing it by strong force, and Men and Horses mounted with her into the Air, with terrible roarings, carrying her out of sight, so that she was never afterwards heard of.

How a Popish Priest extolling the Mass above the Scriptures, and blaspheming, according as he had wished, was carried away by the Devil.

ON De Theraze a lame Jesuite or Popish Priest bearing much upon the Traditions of the Church of Rome, and holding the Pope's Doctrine Superiour to that taught by Christ and his Apostles: in this bigotted Humour, undertook to Preach at a Village near Paris in France on *Whitsunday* last, where he extolled the Popish Sacrament of the Eucharist, in which they hold Christ is bodily Flesh and Blood and Bones as he hung on the Cross, and endeavouring to prove this absurdity, against the writings of St. Paul, who says the worthy Communicant only receives him spiritually, with all the benefits of his Death and Passion. He extravagantly railed against the Scriptures, extolling likewise the Mass as a propriatory Sacrifice for the Quick and Dead, when indeed it is a human invention to get Money, and no where warranted with Gods Word, but opposite to it: He wickedly used these expressions.

O Paul! Paul! said he, *if this Doctrine be not true, touching the Sacrament, and if it be a wicked thing to receive it in another sense, then will I be contented to become the Devils bound Slave, and if the Doctrine of the Church of Rome be not true or to what I Teach, let the Devil come and take me out of this place.* But scarce he said these words, but it fell to Thundering, and Lightning horribly and the Church on a sudden was filled with fearful cries and howlings which made the stoutest Tremble; when immediately a Dreadful form appeared, taking the Priest away by Violence through the divided Roof of the Church, pitifully crying out for help and Mercy, so that he was never since seen: which may serve for a Terrible example to all Profaners of the Word of GOD, and such as hold erroneous Tenets in Religion.